



**COAST GUARD
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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 20 – 02

June 28, 2002

Alternate Hull Examination Program for Certain Passenger Vessels

Certain passenger vessels, operating on restricted inland waterways, experience higher drydocking costs compared to vessels with convenient access to drydock facilities. These costs are related to the hull inspection process and include, as examples, lost revenue during transit to and from drydock facilities and time out of the water. However, some of these vessels are at a lower risk for hull-stress due to their limited operating environments. To alleviate this cost burden, the Coast Guard has established an alternative hull examination program for qualify vessels as an option to drydock examinations. This examination program allows owners or operators of qualifying vessels to receive a credit hull exam of up to 60 months, depending on the chosen method of hull examination.

***Underwater Survey in Lieu of Drydocking Program for
Passenger, Nautical School, Sailing School, and Offshore Supply Vessels***

Qualifying inspected U.S. passenger vessels, nautical school ships (public and civilian), sailing school vessels, and offshore supply vessels now have the increased flexibility of having an underwater survey completed instead of a drydock examination at every other drydock interval. This voluntary option recognizes the significant advances in underwater survey technology over the past decade, aligns certain U.S. regulations with international standards, and gives the owners and operators of these vessels the same flexibility given previously only to tank vessels, cargo and miscellaneous vessels, oceanographic research vessels, and mobile offshore drilling units.

For more information regarding the details of these programs, including their eligibility requirements and application processes, please read the Interim Rule published in the Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 82, Monday, April 29, 2002. This rule is available in its entirety on the Federal Register Online at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/>.

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